

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 1976

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY
Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building, Room 102
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Tuesday, April 27, 1976, commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, Room 102, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman

HARVEY C. LUTTRELL, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JERRY JONES, Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

DONALD F. WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director.

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of March 23, 1976. (5)

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

2. Request from Bal Construction Co. for renewal (5)
of permit to dredge sand and/or fill



material from the Mississippi River on right descending bank central to a point about 70.5 Miles AHP, about 4.5 miles southerly from Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

3. Set spring shrimp season. (7)

MR. RICHARD K. YANCEY

4. Discussion of whether to rejoin Mississippi Flyway Council. (43)

MR. JOE L. HERRING

5. Grassy Lake purchase and property removal, discussion of. (52)

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER

6. Ratify resolution of fishing on Rockefeller Refuge. (55)

7. Request from Louisiana Resources Company for a pipeline right-of-way on Rockefeller Refuge. (57)

8. Request from Amoco Production Co. to conduct geophysical operations in conjunction with State Leases 4080 and 4183 on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. (60)

9. Sun Oil Co., well location on Marsh Island. (63)



10. Superior Oil Co. request for permit to dredge (68)
 access canal on State Lease #2039 #10
 location and State Lease #6403 #2 loca-
 tion on Rockefeller Refuge.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. Set date for June meeting. (75)
 Recognition of visitors. (4)
 Rescheduling of appeal hearing re Gifford- (73)
 Hill permit.

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CHAIRMAN DOYLE G. BERRY: We will call the meeting to order this morning. Glad to see so many people interested in the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. I take it this is a representative crowd of the shrimpers and we are glad to have you for your input this morning.

I would like to recognize Mr. Jim McGovern, the new president of the Wildlife Federation, who is with us this morning, I believe. Also, Mr. George Snow who is executive secretary of the Shrimpers Association. Have I missed anybody, Mr. Director? Oh, Clark Hoffpauer, former Director, and Dr. Glasgow, a former Director, also, with us this morning. Glad to have them here.



The first item on the agenda this morning is approval of the minutes of the March 23 meeting.

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

It is nice to have all seven Board members present this morning.

Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE S. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have one item on the agenda dealing with a permit. It is the renewal of a permit to dredge sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River on the right descending bank at a point about 70 miles AHP.

This permit held by Bal Construction Company has been in operation and has been operated properly. We have had no trouble and I would



recommend that we reissue the permit for a period of one year at five cents a cubic yard.

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second, gentlemen. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Com-
mission does hereby grant permission
to BAL CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. to
remove sand and/or fill material
from the Mississippi River on the
right descending bank central to a
point about 70.5 Miles AHP, about
4.5 miles southerly from Belle Chasse,
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for a



period of one year from April 29, 1976 to April 29, 1977, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next item is one which we annually take up. It has to do with the recommendations for the setting of the shrimp season, the brown crop or the spring crop.

We had our annual meeting Friday with the fishing industry at the International Motor Hotel. It was well attended and we made certain recommendations then. We propose to make the same recommendations here again today. We have the data which we will show you in just a moment.

We are happy to report this year the shrimp crop seems to be quite good; at least it is better than it has been the last year or two. If conditions continue, we may have an exceptionally good crop.

If you would like, we will show a few slides. We are not going to show all of them that we used Friday but we will show enough to indicate how and why we are basing our recommendation and what is happening in the area today.



This first slide simply shows that shrimp production is not a constant thing, that it varies. This goes back to 1959, I think. The straight line across the top of the graph indicates the average catch over the years. That is a 17-year average catch. Lots of times during this 17-year period we have been below this average. The three or four peak years that we had between 1969 and '71 or '72 are what most people remember. We remember the most recent good times and then we compare that to the most recent bad times, which happened during the last two or three years when we had a lot of fresh water.

I don't think that this downward trend has anything to do with the fishing pressure or anything else. We have been lower than this in early years and it looks like the graph will go back up, and we hope it goes back up for several years, not just 1976.

May we look at the next one, please.

Now, several environmental or weather factors control what happens to shrimp. We have always felt that a good many of the larval shrimp



or very young shrimp move into the nursery grounds but after they get there they may not survive. Some of the things that control this production are temperature, that is water temperature, and salinity, the amount of salt in this system, and of course the temperature and the salinity are not controllable. One is due of course to weather conditions or both to weather conditions, one the rainfall and the other just to cold fronts that come through.

There is a pretty correlation between the amount of cold weather we have in April. These are water temperatures, not air temperatures. If the water temperature remains warmer than 20 degrees Centigrade, which we are going to have to learn to use, this is about 70 degrees, 68 degrees, Fahrenheit, then we get good production. If we get a lot of cold periods in April, up to 50 or 100 hours during the month of April that the water is below this temperature, our production goes down.

Now, luckily in 1976 the temperature has been fairly good. It is not as hot as it has



been in the past but it is pretty near as high as we have ever had. We have only had about 20 or 30 hours that it has been below 70 degrees, so we feel like we have had good temperature conditions this year and the crop bears it out.

May we see the next?

The same thing is true about salinity. Now, actually the amount of salt in the marsh does one thing basically. It changes the number of acres of marshland that shrimp can live in, and we check these for two months, April and May. We won't have the May figures yet for 1976 because it is not yet May, but what you can see from the top graph is that in years when we had a lot of fresh water that there has been not very much acreage. Last year, for example, and back in 1973 I guess it was or '74, we were down as low as a million acres or a little less than a million acres of usable marshland and bays for these shrimp to live in. In good years like in 1976 in April we are up over two million acres. So we have doubled the amount of land or water that the shrimp can survive in and this we feel makes a difference. It is just



as simple as if you plant 50 acres of corn or 100 acres, you are going to get more production.

So, we have been lucky. We have had warm temperatures. We have had low rivers, a dry winter and spring and from that it looks like we have good to optimal conditions for the growth of the shrimp, and we have had a good movement of shrimp into the area.

Let's see if we have something on the next one. Well, this still deals with the salt and it shows that in 1976 it is up near the top where we had it in some good years in 1971 and '72, so the salt condition is good throughout the state.

The same thing again here. This is from all areas in the state. 1976, the salt conditions, the amount of acreage, is running high.

May we see the next one?

Now, this represents the movement of shrimp. These are the measurements we make on the very young shrimp coming in. In 1976 the movement has been exceptional. We have had two or three peaks. We had one early in February. We had a fairly strong peak again in March and then we had



an exceptionally strong peak in late March and April. Now those early shrimp that came in obviously have grown up. They are a fair size and they might even be fishable pretty quick. They do not represent the total crop, not even anything like the full percentage. What we are looking at is the average size of this whole group. The last group of shrimp that has moved in probably are quite small yet and we see them but they are too small to pick up in any test trawls, so they are likely to show up later in May and early in June.

This indicates that we do have a good crop that moved in and we hope they all are going to survive. If they do, we would be in an exceptionally good position.

So, we have had the three things that we need for shrimp. We have had good temperatures, we have had good water conditions, plenty of salt water, and we have had a lot of shrimp move in, and it begins to tell in what we are producing.

The average catch in ten-minute samples -- this is a ten-minute drag with a six-foot trawl with a quarter-inch mesh in it, and you can see in



1976 we are running something around -- what is that? 150 or 200 per catch? I can't see the numbers on the left.

MR. SCHAFER: About 150.

DR. ST. AMANT: About 150, but the main thing is, it is just about three times more shrimp than we were catching last year and the year before in these samples, so we have got at least a crop that is running two to three times bigger than we had last year and maybe even more. It is the best catch we have had since 1971, which tends to indicate that we have a pretty good crop out there.

The areas of course where this catching occurs vary. The center part of the state, which includes Section Three or Areas Three, Four and Five, which is Barataria Bay to the Mississippi River, the Timbalier-Barataria Bay complex, and then finally over in the Atchafalaya Bay and Vermilion Bay area, this center part of the state usually runs a week to two weeks or three weeks ahead of the shrimp on the east side of the River and in the far west.

Now it is showing up here. These catches



in these areas are higher and would be expected to be higher because the post-larval shrimp have not yet grown up in the other areas enough for us to detect them. So, we do have an excellent crop, particularly in Zone Two.

The growth rate in 1976 has been good. This is the result of the warm temperatures and you will see that it is peaking out about like it did in '71. The projection of this growth rate puts the shrimp about a week to ten days ahead of where they normally are, where they have been in the last few years, and it is because of this growth rate that we have recommended or did recommend Friday and will recommend again today that we open the season at least a week or two weeks earlier than we have proposed in past years. If you will remember, in past years we have recommended the season as late as the 25th, which would be the latest date we can open it. We frequently recommend the 17th to the 20th. This year we feel like we can go a little bit earlier.

I can't read the top -- what is this?

MR. SCHAFER: The average size in all



areas.

DR. ST. AMANT: All right. This again verifies that the shrimp come in earlier or later in some areas. The areas that we are talking about opening are the ones that show the largest shrimp. At the present time in those areas the average size of these shrimp is running around 60 millimeters, which is a little over two and a half, two inches, about two and a half inches, and in the far east and far west the shrimp are running down around an inch and a half or a little better than an inch and a half. This represents about two to three weeks growing.

Now, again I wish to impress on you we are dealing with averages. There are certainly some shrimp out there that are larger and there is an awful lot of shrimp that are much smaller.

In projecting this thing, at the growth rates that we determine, we come up with this graph which indicates that at the present time, April 26, there are a few shrimp, about 10 or 11 percent, which would be usable out there. If we move up to the next period, May 3, we find that



we would have about 28 percent available. May 10 is the break point that we have been using to set the season in past years. At this point we break over 50 percent, we are around 53 percent projection on May 10, and by May 17 with the growth projection it would go nearly to 94 percent, which indicates that we are going to peak out.

Actually, I have some feeling that these percentages might change and be lower if we were to continue to take them on for another three or four weeks. The shrimp may continue to grow but the average size of the population may change because we have such a large amount of young shrimp moving in. It is like adding a bunch of babies into the system so that your average age is younger but based on our projection at the time we did the last study, which was last week, we recommend that the brown shrimp season be opened in Area Two, which is the area from Southwest Pass or roughly the mouth of the Mississippi to Southwest Pass in Vermilion Bay, which includes all of Vermilion Bay. It is this center section of the state, over there on the map. We recommend that this area be



opened on May 10.

In Areas One and Three we feel that they are running at least two to three weeks later. We propose that the opening date here, May 31. This doesn't necessarily have to be a firm figure. If we find that there are some significant changes in these areas we might be able to either extend it to a later period or we could conceivably shorten it if the Commission gives us this permission, but our recommendation at this time, based on the information that we have, is that May 31 would be an appropriate date.

There is also some question this year as to whether or not it would be feasible to have some type of white shrimp season in advance of the brown season. If you will recall, we discussed this last year. We made it clear to the industry at the meeting in April last year that this would be a possibility. We have a law which allows us to set these short seasons where there are fishable shrimp. Last year the industry, after we proposed that it might be possible to fish, made it clear to the Commission that they felt they didn't want



it, for one reason or another. The principal reason seemed to be that they couldn't tool up, they couldn't get out there, they felt like there would be some inequities in it, and I suppose that any time you open a short season, you are going to have to look forward to this type thing, that you may have some problems, because it is going to be in a sense experimental. We have never done it before, we don't know how fast we can open these things really, and how fast we can shut them down with any degree of success.

But, in view of this, we have looked at the white populations. There are certain people I feel in the audience today who know we have a pretty good white crop out there, and there will probably be some requests to the Commission to open such a season. Based on this we have drawn up some data. It appears that we have a rather nice crop of white shrimp, particularly in the west and central part of the state and over in the Calcasieu Lake area.

Now, really these white shrimp show up here every year. We have known that there are



some years when there are more of them than others and some years when they grow a little faster than others. The bulk of the white shrimp generally run from somewhere in the area of Sister Lake in southern Terrebonne Parish over to the Texas line and the graphs that we have here today show this. The shrimp are in there. We have never done this so it is pretty difficult for us to estimate the exact amount of shrimp, but we feel like there is somewhere between a half million and two million pounds of white shrimp that may be available to fish.

These shrimp are running pretty good size. Have you got a slide for that? They are running somewhere around -- what is that? They are running between 100 and 120 millimeters, which even right now is pretty good shrimp. That is somewhere in the neighborhood of 50-count to 40-count heads-on shrimp, and there may be some bigger ones than that in there. At the price of shrimp this represents a sizable dollar value.

THE CHAIRMAN: What dollar value would you put on that, Dr. St. Amant?



DR. ST. AMANT: I would prefer to have the industry tell you. These shrimp have been selling for quite a big price. They are selling well over a dollar a pound, so we are looking at more dollars than we have shrimp out there, but somebody may have that information for you if they discuss it.

The thing is that the data we have on the brown shrimp -- now, remember, we are really working with the brown shrimp crop; the brown shrimp crop is somewhere between, oh, probably ten times larger than the white or will be ten times larger. We are looking on a good brown shrimp here, we may get 30 million pounds. At best I am looking at maybe three million pounds of white. So, I don't think we can jeopardize a brown shrimp crop for these whites, particularly in view of the fact that some of them could be caught offshore. Now, obviously, you couldn't catch as many. They are harder to catch. They may migrate, but if we kept the season closed certainly some of them will move out ahead of this full moon and these cool spells and they could be



caught in the offshore waters.

But, since the shrimp are there, we feel like that we could fish them from the Atchafalaya River west to the Texas line, because the brown shrimp crops in these areas are late. They are so small, they are back in the marshes, and the three, four or five-day fishing probably would not affect the brown crop. There may be some question about fishing white shrimp east of the Atchafalaya in the western part of Terrebonne Parish, particularly around Sister Lake, Lake Mechant and the like.

I understand the population is in there but you have such a heavy brown population intermixed with them; the browns in these areas are generally the ones that we are talking about catching on the tenth of May. I don't believe there is any reliable way to fish in there without hurting the brown crop, so I would not recommend any fishing of white shrimp east of the Atchafalaya River. If biologically we feel like some type of fishing might be available west of the Atchafalaya River without any disturbance of the brown crop,



if such a season is considered, we recommend that it be as soon as feasible that we can get it out with respect to news media and announcements and that it be closed very quickly, certainly by this weekend and not any later than that.

Gentlemen, this concludes the information that we have for you and it is our basic recommendation.

MR. THOMPSON: Doc, a question on the boundary if we should choose a white shrimp season. East of the Atchafalaya? Would the closedown be east of the Atchafalaya or the canal?

DR. ST. AMANT: Which canal do you have reference to?

MR. THOMPSON: Well, there is one that goes to the east of the river and goes up on a northeast direction and then turns in a north direction.

DR. ST. AMANT: We are talking about the mouth of the Atchafalaya River. If you want a better one, use Pointeau Fer.

MR. THOMPSON: Draw the line that you are talking about. Show me your line.



MR. SCHAFFER: O. K. This is the Atchafalaya right here.

MR. THOMPSON: O. K.

MR. SCHAFFER: It would run on the east coast of the Atchafalaya.

MR. THOMPSON: O. K., I see what you are doing. There is a canal just to the left or to the west of where you drew your line.

THE CHAIRMAN: Calumet Cut, Jimmie, is what you are talking about

MR. THOMPSON: Is that what I am talking about?

MR. SCHAFFER: Here?

MR. THOMPSON: Further west.

DR. ST. AMANT: The area in question, Mr. Thompson, is moot in one sense. What we are looking for and we are willing to recommend the best topographical thing that can be used as a marker. In the area of the mouth of the Atchafalaya there is no shrimp anyway, it is too fresh, neither browns nor whites, so you have a pretty good area in there where they could wander around. There probably won't be any fishing in there because



there is nothing there. Most of the shrimp are to the west of that in Vermilion Bay and on to the west beyond that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, you only have one little channel in Atchafalaya Bay, you can run through right along the bank's edge.

DR. ST. AMANT: O. K., well, in that case maybe we could set the thing a little further to the west. The only thing I think from the enforcement standpoint we need to pick something that is reliable and there would be no question about.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Atchafalaya River would be your best bet on that.

DR. ST. AMANT: O. K., all right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would anybody in the audience like to be heard at this time? Would you come up, please, sir, and sign the register and give your name and horsepower and whatever.

MR. DUDENHEFER: I am Milton Dudenhefer, president of the East Bank Commercial Fishermen's Association.

Since last year we went into this three



area concept, this has really helped the east side and most of what I am going to speak about would be the east side of the river. This is the area I am representing a great part of the fishermen.

We found when the Commission give us a late date last year in this area we had an exceptionally good season considering Dr. St. Amant and the fishermen all agreed we would have a bad season, but the late date the shrimp were larger and we got more money for them, and so dollarwise it turned out to be a fairly good season.

So, this year we are going to ask again for a later date. At a meeting we had of our organization the members mentioned their first choice as being the seventh of June and their second choice being the 31st of May. Some of the checking we have done around, fishermen testing equipment and all, it seems this little cold snap slowed the shrimp growth down somewhat and we feel that too early a date could possibly give us too small of a shrimp again. Like Dr. St. Amant says, a lot of the shrimp are very small yet, and so we are again hoping for a little bit later date.



As far as the white shrimp, Dr. St. Amant, on the east side, last year we recommended that we didn't care to have anything to do with the short white season and this year we are going to take the same stand because the white shrimp are mixed in with the brown shrimp and we feel that we would destroy more than the short season can do for us.

I believe I have covered everything I wish to cover. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, sir. Anybody else wish to be heard this morning? Would you come up, please, sir, and sign the register and state your name.

If there is anybody else that cares to be heard, would you please come on up now and register and we will save a little time and be ready to take the podium.

MR. MELERINE: Wilson Melerine from the St. Bernard Commercial Fishermen's Association. This is Area One, this would be the Delacroix Island area.

Now we feel last year the season was a little bit late. We lost money because they had



some people outlawing and the shrimp they caught I would say approximately a week before the season was running roughly 40-count shrimp.

Now, after the season opened, we had to wait a week before we could start catching with the butterflies again and the shrimp was smaller and with a butterfly net you catch a uniform shrimp, so it wasn't because they was mixed.

Now, according to Dr. St. Amant, he says the shrimp are running from a week to ten days earlier than last year, so we feel we would like to get that ten days earlier. Last year was opening June second, so if we can at least get ten days earlier, it will be satisfactory to all of us down there.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. KERNER: My name is Leo Kerner. I am the Mayor of LaFitte. Commission Members, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to say this. You are talking about opening the white shrimp season now. I think it is just like when this lady told her husband, said, "Look, those



girls are stripped," and when he turned around, she said, "Too late!" That is just what it is right now, it is too late to open the white shrimp season because if you call the docks right now, they are unloading shrimps from lugger boats that has been catching the last couple of days and I think if you call the docks, especially in our area, they are unloading shrimps there today and there is white shrimps that they are catching along the coast, so it is too late.

Another thing, we keep looking at this thing every year, but if you open the season a little bit later you get a larger shrimp. Well, I have facts here to show from the canners that the shrimp, they had more tinies in 1975 at the end of June than when they opened the season on May 19, and in 1974 they had almost as much tinies at the end of June as they had at the beginning of May.

I just want to give this to the Commissioners so they can look at it (distributing documents).

You know, every year we come up here.



This is my nineteenth year that I have been here, and every year it is the same thing. We wait for the sea to send the shrimp into us in inland waters and, gentlemen, let me tell you this, once those shrimp leave the inland waters, never will they return again. If we don't catch them, they are gone forever.

I know you see in the paper that they claim that the inland waters serve as sanctuaries, estuaries, and nursery grounds. I just wonder why, if the inland waters do serve as nursery grounds and estuaries and sanctuaries, why doesn't Lake Salvador, why doesn't Lake Pontchartrain serve as those three categories that I mention.

It seems to me like these white shrimp that come in, they come in at a certain size and they wasn't too small when they come in in April, and now there is nobody trawling them and they are leaving. So, if trawling was bad for the white shrimp, it seems to me they should stay in these nice nursery grounds where they claim long enough for us to catch them. Why do they leave? It looks like when we get a little northwester



they leave. Why do the Brazilian shrimp, as soon as they get to know themselves, get a little large they move back out to the out waters instead of staying in inland waters where they claim they nurse? I just can't understand why Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Salvador don't serve as nursery grounds.

I mean they have shrimp in Lake Salvador maybe one month in a year and some years they don't have any. I have seen it when they didn't have any. You take Catahoula Lake. How many shrimps do you catch there? Any place that the salt water does not go, you will never catch a crab or a shrimp. Never! You will never catch a crab with a sponge in inland waters. You will never catch a shrimp with eggs on inland waters. I have watched shrimp for 17 years and never one time I ever saw a shrimp, a female shrimp, that could get fertile on inland waters.

All of you know that a female shrimp has her sexual organs right under the neck. You never see those shrimps inside. Never, never, never. You never see shrimps making love inside. Never,



you will never catch them together, never, never.

So what I am trying to tell you is this, that in all the time that I fool with shrimps I don't think inland waters has got much to do with shrimp as a dumb donkey in Mexico.

I just want to ask you today, instead of opening the season like you might do for a couple of days, we would recommend, and I am representing most of the canners and I would say 95 percent of the fishermen in LaFitte, Barataria and Crown Point area, we would like to ask you to forget about opening the white shrimp season and give us a May 3 date of this year.

Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: Leo, question. What did you say? I didn't understand, I am kind of dumb about these things, that the white shrimp are being caught now next to the shoreline?

MR. KERNER: Right.

MR. THOMPSON: Where?

MR. KERNER: Moving out, they are moving out.

MR. THOMPSON: And they are being caught?



MR. KERNER: Yes, sir.

MR. THOMPSON: And they are being brought to you as a canner?

MR. KERNER: Well, not me but my son is buying them and Nunez and all them other people, but they are catching them on the coastline with lugger boats.

MR. THOMPSON: This is illegal, am I correct?

MR. KERNER: No, no. No, no. The season is open out in the Gulf, it is open twelve months a year.

MR. THOMPSON: That is what I asked you. In other words, not inland on the coast, out.

MR. KERNER: Outside.

MR. THOMPSON: O. K.

MR. KERNER: You see, where the shrimp come from, you have a 12-month season. You can trawl there all the time, where they have their babies, and on the inland waters we are trying to close it, and we only get about, I would say, actually about three good months a year, and if you get a hurricane you might get another month in



October, but you know in August and September every year, if you don't get disturbances in the Gulf, you don't have a good August fishing. You have to get a disturbance to bring those shrimp in. That is the only time you really get a good season.

So, I think what we need to do is to get regulations out in that Gulf a little bit and find out when the shrimps is spawning, when they lay the eggs, and let's see if we can't close that particular area.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mayor.

(Applause)

MR. THOMPSON: You know, I have got to tell Leo one thing, I have got to admit one thing. I have never seen shrimp make love!

(Laughter)

I have never seen them anywhere. Have you seen them, Jerry? Jerry Jones is standing up there; I believe he has seen them!

MR. JONES: I just wanted to ask Harry if he would check into that and give us a report on that next time, from a biological standpoint!



MR. WILLE: How about some film footage, Harry?

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish to be heard? Surely somebody else must have something else to say in this crowd. How about Zone Three?

Go ahead, Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: I have got something to say. I guess everybody has been heard.

Mr. Chairman, I move that we follow Dr. St. Amant's recommendation and we open the brown shrimp season in Area Two on May 10 and in Area One and Area Three on May 31, and that in addition to that, that we declare a special four-day white shrimp season to begin at sunset this evening, which is 7:35 p.m. Central Daylight Time, Tuesday, April 27, close at midnight Saturday, May 1, that is this coming Saturday, in that area from the Atchafalaya River west to the Sabine River/Texas state line, to include Calcasieu Lake, with the special season being open to both wing nets and trawls, and further that the Director, as pertains to this special season on white shrimp, that he be



authorized to extend, close, reopen the season, regardless of the above periods, if found to be biologically necessary, and he will have that authority until May 31, 1976, which is the date when the brown shrimp would be open. I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Is there any discussion?

(No response)

All in favor, let it be known by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing no opposition, so ordered.

(The full texts of the resolutions are here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has



reviewed the requests of the fishermen, industry and sportsmen, as well as the biological predictions and recommendations of the biologists of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby declare the 1976 Spring Brown Shrimp season to be as follows:

ZONE 1 - Mississippi State line to South Pass, at the mouth of the Mississippi River, including Lake Pontchartrain,

Open, May 31, 12:01 a.m.

Closed, July 29, 11:59 p.m.

ZONE 2 - South Pass, at the mouth of the Mississippi River, to the western shore of Vermilion Bay,

Open, May 10, 12:01 a.m.

Closed, July 9, 11:59 p.m.

ZONE 3 - Western shore of Vermilion Bay to the Sabine River/Texas



State Line,

Open, May 31, 12:01 a.m.

Closed, July 29, 11:50 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and is hereby authorized to extend and to close said season regardless of the above stated periods if found to be biologically necessary.

---:---

WHEREAS, biologists of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission have found there are harvestable amounts of white shrimp in a certain portion of the Louisiana coastal nursery area, and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that a special four-day white shrimp season be opened west of the Atchafalaya River,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby declare a special four-day white shrimp season



to begin at 7:35 p.m. Central Daylight Time on Tuesday, April 27, 1976, and close at midnight, Saturday, May 1, 1976, in a certain area from the Atchafalaya River, westward to the Sabine River/Texas State line and to include Calcasieu Lake, with special said season being open to both wing nets and trawls. However, night trawling shall be prohibited in Calcasieu Lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and is hereby authorized through May 31 to extend and close said season regardless of the above stated period if found to be biologically necessary.

FROM THE FLOOR: How are all the fishermen going to know about this by tonight?

MR. JONES: We are going to tell the TV and the radio.

FROM THE FLOOR: How many got TV's and radios? They won't --



THE CHAIRMAN: If you would like to speak, will you come to the podium and give your name, please, sir.

MR. OLANDER: My name is Leo Olander and I am representing the fishermen from Cypremort Point.

I am not directly against what he is saying but I am against the fact it will be just afternoon. That only approximately about half of the fishermen, because a lot of them are on outside waters which cannot be contacted or a lot of them may be perhaps in just any stage with their boats. Not this afternoon, no, I cannot see that. I don't know if anyone else in here would disagree with me but I cannot. I mean, there are several boats that there would be no way to start tomorrow morning, no way. Give time to advertise or something.

MR. OLANDER: Let me say this, Mr. Olander. We talked about this thing some yesterday afternoon in the open session in here. We weighed it pretty well. We talked about it last year. We didn't have a white season last year because we didn't have time to notify the people. Everybody



was told last year we were probably going to have a experimental season this year. It is this kind of situation where you harvest what we can now or don't anybody harvest anything, and a lot of the shrimpers have had a hard time. They have had a hard time paying for their boats and making a living for their families, and I for one think it is better to at least harvest some of them than not harvest any of them.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Berry, this thing was discussed rather thoroughly at the annual meeting last week, and so these people knew perhaps it would come up.

MR. OLANDER: Well, there was no notification in New Iberia, Jeanerette, Franklin area of any meeting, and I was surprised when I sat down to hear you say a meeting was held. If it was advertised, where was it advertised? We knew nothing of it until I sat here just a few minutes ago.

MR. JONES: Which meeting are you talking about, the shrimp meeting last week?

MR. OLANDER: The meeting of last week.



MR. THOMPSON: You mean the Friday meeting? You didn't know about it?

MR. OLANDER: No, sir.

MR. JONES: We have been having it for I don't know how many years and we have publicized it in the papers. That is where Dr. St. Amant and them first present their evidence to the -- tell him about it, Doc.

DR. ST. AMANT: All I know is that there were a lot of people there. It has been advertised. It has been mentioned at the Shrimp Association meetings and it has been in the papers. It has been on our agendas and I don't know any other way we could advertise it more.

I do have one recommendation for next year. I do agree that this business of adequate notice is important and I think that this year is a trial thing and we may or may not make some errors, but I would suggest next year, if we find that we catch a usable crop of whites this year, what we would do at the March meeting of the Commission, we entertain the idea of a white season then and give the Director the discretion



of opening based on the data. Then, as soon as the data comes in, like last Friday we had this data, we could have had adequate time. We might even have been able to set up a week's notice and set a white season late in April, and we can avoid this type of thing.

I think what we are doing here is really experimenting and we may make some mistakes, and I will stand behind them if we make them. I will take the rap for it. I only know this is the only way you are going to find out whether you can manage shrimp. The data shows that we have a crop, they are fishable, and the law says we can fish the crop when it is fishable.

MR. JONES: The thing that concerns me is the biologists' recommendation that we get in there and get those shrimp out as soon as we can so we don't interfere with the growth of the brown shrimp in that area, and I realize and I agree, some people are not going to be able to get out there until Friday and some won't make it at all, but the idea is that some is better than nothing. We could just not have a season and we wait till



next Monday and the biologists say, well, you know the brown shrimp have moved in and we better not catch the white shrimp.

I agree with you, but a little of something is better than none of nothing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will move along with the agenda now. Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the next item on the agenda pertains to the possibility of Louisiana rejoining the Mississippi Flyway Council.

I think we are all aware of the fact that the Mississippi Flyway Council is an organization of states and provinces in Canada that deal in matters relating to waterfowl management, primarily in the Mississippi Flyway. Now back in 1968 Louisiana dropped out of the Flyway Council after several years of rather serious disagreement over hunting regulations. Last fall Mississippi and Alabama also dropped out of the Mississippi Flyway Council.

Now, in February of this year negotiations were entered into between the representatives



of the Flyway Council, the Fish and Wildlife Service and Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana, about the possibility of these three states rejoining this organization. This first meeting took place at the Ducks Unlimited conference in St. Louis back in early February and a subsequent meeting was held at the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge down in Cameron Parish.

In attendance at the Rockefeller meeting were representatives from all the states in the Mississippi Flyway. At that meeting Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama outlined the conditions under which they would consider rejoining the Flyway Council. The basic condition was that if this action was taken that in future Council meetings six states in the Lower Mississippi Flyway Council would have their technical personnel meet separately from the technical personnel in the northern states and they would develop recommendations for hunting regulations in a separate meeting and then they would convey these on to the administrators of the state game and fish departments in the six southern states in the South, who



would then be represented by a spokesman at all meetings held in August and September, whether in Denver or Washington, that related to the establishment of the fall hunting regulations on hunting ducks and geese.

This basically is a major change in the way the Council has always conducted their business in the past, because they have always developed one set of recommendations and then they would have a spokesman attend these meetings and push for these certain recommendations.

In the past several years, since Louisiana dropped out of the Flyway Council, it has pursued its own course of action along this line independently and having representatives present at these meetings to push for what we felt we had to have in Louisiana and, of course, as we all know, the efforts made by the state here have been quite successful.

Under this new arrangement, if Louisiana rejoins the Flyway Council, then the six states in the South would meet. They would have an opportunity to develop their recommendations and then



have a spokesman at all meetings that were called for the purpose of setting the hunting regulations. There is probably little doubt that under this arrangement, the southern states will have a lot more voice in how these regulations are set than they have ever had before.

Mississippi and Alabama have already considered this new arrangement. We have got a letter from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service that confirms emphatically that this arrangement is satisfactory to them and that they will welcome representatives from the southern states being present at their regulations meetings to express the views from this end of the Flyway.

This basically brings us up to date at this time and we think it is time for the Commission to decide which way it wants to go. There may be people here in the audience that want to comment at this time as to how they feel the Commission should act. We have got Jim McGovern here, President of Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and we have got one or two outdoor writers.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody wish to be



heard? Mr. McGovern.

MR. McGOVERN: Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, the sportsmen have always had great respect for Dick Yancey's recommendations, particularly with waterfowl, and the comments that have been made about whether we should delay further on this in order to get some more input from the general sportsmen is a legitimate consideration. However, it is my understanding, the sportsmen's understanding, that Mr. Yancey's recommendation would be that we take care of this immediately rather than have a delay for further input, in view of the fact that certain meetings would be taking place and that we can get more out of it by moving now.

On that basis, as President of Louisiana Wildlife Federation, I would like to recommend that the recommendations of Dick Yancey be followed and that immediately efforts be made so that we can have this new agreement, which has been reduced to writing and seems to cover the problems that were being discussed before.

With reference to input, it is interesting



that I noticed that the Toledo Bend Sportsman of April, which has gone out, had a complete writeup about the background and the fact that on March 23 this Commission took under advisement the problem and wanted to get more input. I think sufficient input has been received and it is my recommendation on behalf of the organized sportsmen of the state that we follow Mr. Yancey's recommendation and proceed immediately to get the benefits of the current meeting.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree with you, Mr. McGovern, and thank you very kindly.

Does anybody else wish to be heard?

MR. DUPUY: I am not sure that I was following you all the way and whether you stated or not that the four-year cooperative study would not in any way be jeopardized. The letter we have from Lynn Greenwalt emphasizes that fact and I don't know whether you brought it out in your comments or not.

MR. YANCEY: I did leave that out. We did receive certain, you know, some letters that



expressed concern about this business of Louisiana possibly going to the Central Flyway may be jeopardized by, you know, Louisiana rejoining the Mississippi Flyway Council, but we have it in writing from the Fish and Wildlife Service that this would not in any way affect a current four-year study that is under way in the state or Louisiana's continuing efforts to move all or part of the state into the Central Flyway.

MR. LUTTRELL: Whenever you input is finished, I have a motion I would like to propose.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else have any more input?

(No response)

Let's hear your motion.

MR. LUTTRELL: Are you ready? O. K.

I move that Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission rejoin the Mississippi Flyway Council; that the Commission appoint Richard Yancey to represent the Louisiana Commission on all the matters coming before the sub-council. I also move that he be instructed to participate in meetings of representatives of all the states in the sub-



council for the purpose of organizing and planning the strategy for the upcoming season and bag limits discussions.

I also move that our Director be instructed to prepare a letter announcing Louisiana's rejoining the Mississippi Flyway Council and that this announcement be sent to the Department of the Interior concurrent and jointly with that of Alabama and Mississippi.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Jones. Is there any discussion?

MR. THOMPSON: Do you have any problem with Mississippi and Alabama joining?

MR. YANCEY: We have gotten letters from them, indicating they are prepared to rejoin under the present new arrangement that has been developed.

THE CHAIRMAN: This motion of Mr. Clay's was contingent --

MR. THOMPSON: He covered that in saying "jointly."



MR. YANCEY: Jointly and concurrently, but the arrangement was made that the three states would move together, either back into the Council or to stay out together of the Council.

MR. THOMPSON: This motion ties that down, by saying jointly and concurrently.

MR. LUTTRELL: Correct.

MR. THOMPSON: What I am saying to you, if they decide not to go, I don't want to be sitting out there.

MR. LUTTRELL: Jimmie, they have already voted to go if we go. That ties it down.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion specifically says if they don't join, we don't join, either.

MR. THOMPSON: I understand.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion and second. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Thank you, Dick.

Mr. Herring.



MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On February 27 this year the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission purchased the Grassy Lake Wildlife Management Area in Avoyelles Parish. At that time there were approximately 45 camp leases held by individuals on this property and these leases had a 60-day cancellation clause in them and the Southwestern Improvement Company did notify all the campowners to remove their camps within that time.

However, several of the campowners have contacted us in Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission about the high water conditions in this area and also the bad roads leading in, that they can't get their camps out, and have asked if they could get an extension on this time.

At this time we would recommend that the Commission do grant them an extension to September 15. This would be prior to the hunting seasons opening in and around that area to get their camps out and it should give them adequate time through the dry season to get all their camps out. I don't think we need any extensions after that. In



fact, I wouldn't recommend any. I think that this should give them plenty of time to get all their camps out and have all their belongings removed.

I would recommend to the Commission that we do grant this extension.

MR. DUPUY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy and seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, on February 27, 1976,
the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission purchased the Grassy Lake
Wildlife Management Area in Avoyelles
Parish, and



WHEREAS, at the time of purchase there were approximately forty-five (45) camp leases held by individuals on this property, and

WHEREAS, these leases had a sixty (60) day cancellation clause and each lessee was notified by Southwestern Improvement Company to remove their camps within sixty (60) days, and

WHEREAS, several camp owners have contacted this office requesting an extension of time for the removal of their camps as high water and bad road conditions have prevented them from accomplishing their camp removal, and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the camp owners be given until September 15, 1976 to remove their camps,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED with the above recommendation that the camp owners on Grassy Lake be notified that their camps must be removed by



September 15, 1976, and no extension will be given for removal after this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, the first item I have on the agenda for your consideration is ratification of a resolution that your Board passed on January 27 addressed to fishing regulations on our Rockefeller Refuge.

In years gone by the Refuge had been closed in the winter months. You took action in January to open the Refuge to sportfishing in daylight hours only on a year-round basis. We had one and a half months of fishing on the area after the resolution went into effect, had no particular problems, and would like to request that you ratify the action taken on January 27 at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation, gentlemen. Do I have a motion?

MR. LAPEYRE: So move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.



THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre,
seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission took
action on January 27, 1976, opening
the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge to
year-round sportfishing, and

WHEREAS, this action was
taken on an emergency basis in order
to provide the public with additional
fishing opportunity,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby ratify
action taken by the Commission on
January 27, 1976 pertaining to fishing



regulations on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron and Vermilion Parishes.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item for your consideration is a request from Louisiana Resources Company for a pipeline right-of-way across a portion of our Rockefeller Refuge. This will be for a 10-inch natural gas pipeline which will come onto the Refuge from offshore, transect the Refuge parallel to two existing pipelines that are on the area at this present time.

We suggested to the company when they came to us originally for a right-of-way request that they concentrate their right-of-way as near and adjacent as possible to the existing line so that we will have more or less a pipeline corridor where maintenance of these lines would be simplified and certainly would be most desirable to us from a management standpoint.

They have surveyed the area and have agreed to this thing. They will install the necessary bulkheads and safeguards to protect the area. It will be a push type line and backfilled and I would recommend that the Commission grant



them the right-of-way to cross the Refuge.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wille.
All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has
received a request from Louisiana
Resources Company for a pipeline
right-of-way across a portion of the
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron
Parish, and

WHEREAS, this pipeline will



parallel existing pipelines and be constructed in such a manner as to create the least amount of disturbance to the marsh habitat,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant a 30-foot right-of-way to Louisiana Resources Company for the purpose of installing a single 10-inch gas transmission line across Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that necessary safeguards be incorporated in the permit to protect the wildlife refuge from any damages that may occur as a result of the installation, maintenance and use of this pipeline, and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this right-of-way.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next request for



your consideration is one from Amoco Producing Company. They have extensive mineral production on our Rockefeller area. They have come to us with a request to conduct a geophysical operation on their leases and to lay reflector cables beyond the boundary of the leases onto unleased acreage of the Refuge.

We have discussed this matter with the State Mineral Board people and they feel that this is a legitimate request. There will be no shot holes taken off of the existing leases and this will be for evaluation purposes only for the possibility of a deep venture on one of these leases. The Mineral Board has petitioned Amoco to either drill additional wells or release some of the acreage that they are holding under production at the present time, and this seismograph work would be for the purpose of evaluating their acreage, either pursuant to releasing the property or drilling a deeper venture.

I would recommend that we grant Amoco the geophysical permit to lay the cables beyond their existing lease boundary but that no shot



points be taken off of the leases.

MR. JONES: I will so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones. Do I hear a second?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has received an official request from Amoco Production Company to conduct geophysical operations on State Lease 4080 and State Lease 4183 in order to properly evaluate the mineral potentials of these two tracts, and

WHEREAS, these two leases



are presently being held by production and geophysical operation will provide necessary information regarding additional development work on the two leases, and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to extend reflector cables beyond the boundaries of the leases for evaluation purposes, and

WHEREAS, this activity has been discussed with personnel of the State Mineral Board and they are in agreement that this is a bona fide request,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Amoco Production Company to lay reflector cables beyond the boundary of their State-owned leases 4080 and 4183 located on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. It is explicitly understood that no shot points will be taken.



beyond the lease boundary, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this permit.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item is a request from Sun Oil Company regarding a tract that they have on Marsh Island. This is one of the leases that was awarded by the State Mineral Board and the Commission some year and a half ago. This is State Lease 6587.

As you are aware, Sun Oil Company drilled a deep venture on one of the other leases. It resulted in a dry hole and they elected not to pay the rental on those three tracts that this well was adjacent to. They did pay the annual rental on the 6587 tract and have now come in with a proposed well location.

This location is about 3,000 feet south of our impoundment levee down toward the western end of Marsh Island. We have a canal on the inside of the impoundment that would be adequate with some minor sweeping for marine access up



adjacent to the site that they propose to gain access to their drilling site.

Now, they have informed me that this will be in the 20,000-foot level or slightly deeper. They do anticipate some high pressure gas and salt water zones in the drilling venture. Therefore, they have requested marine access to this drilling site. Now, they came in with various approaches to the thing. The most palatable one from our standpoint would be to utilize the Bird Island Bayou which goes right by our headquarters down to the impoundment. This is a deep-water channel that would not require any sweeping. It has been used by oil companies in the past. Go into the impoundment and utilize our impoundment canal down to near the area where they propose to drill and then dredge a marine slip out to the well location.

They have agreed that if this well results in a producing well that they would come back out, plug up the impoundment, build a board road from the point where the headquarters canal comes up to the impoundment out to the drilling site for production purposes, and also use the



road for additional exploration or development work on the lease. They feel by drilling this well then they would have a clear picture of the geology of the zone and have some idea of the type of pressures and what have you that they would encounter. They would bridge our impoundment canal and this would not be a problem to us from a management standpoint. We had a bridge across the canal several years ago when Amoco had production in the impoundment.

They expect that this well will take somewhere in the vicinity of five to six months to drill. The well that they drilled on the Refuge took slightly over five months to drill. This would not occur until after the first of the year. This would be desirable from our standpoint because this would put it after the waterfowl season.

So, with all this in view, I would recommend that we grant Sun Oil Company this request and that if the well does result in a producing well, then we would expect to develop this lease with a road system.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.



THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy. Do I have a second?

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Jones. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Sun Oil Company has State Lease 6587 on the western end of Marsh Island, and

WHEREAS, Sun Oil Company has requested a marine access route to service their No. 1 proposed well location, and

WHEREAS, this location is approximately 3,000 feet south of the impoundment levee, and

WHEREAS, the proposed well



is anticipated to be approximately 20,000 feet in depth, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that extreme gas pressures will be encountered in the drilling activity which will require extensive safety precautions, and

WHEREAS, Sun Oil Company has agreed to install a board road to service the well location should the drilling venture result in a producing well,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant Sun Oil Company permission to utilize the impoundment canal to a point adjacent to the proposed well location and then to excavate a new canal in a southerly direction approximately 3,100 feet. Material excavated from the new canal shall be placed on the western side of the canal and utilized as a board



road site should the well result in a producer,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sun Oil Company shall agree to delay utilization of this access route until after January 1, 1977 in order to cause the least amount of disturbance to wintering waterfowl on Marsh Island. Should the drilling venture result in a dry hole, Sun Oil Company will be required to seal the canal at the point where they enter the impoundment canal and restore the levee to its original grade and elevation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this permit.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next request is from Superior Oil Company for two locations on Rockefeller. One of these is on State Lease 2039, which will be their No. 10 location, the other is on 6403, which will be their No. 2 location.



These leases both are in areas of the Refuge that have been extensively developed through canal systems. The older lease, the 2039, is presently being held by production by Superior by one gas well on the lease. Last year we received around \$700 in royalty, is all we got out of it. They have been petitioned by the State Mineral Board to either take additional action on the lease or release the acreage, and Superior feels that they will drill this well, and if it is a successful venture, this of course would increase our royalty income. I suspect that if it is dry hole they will drop that entire lease. As I say, it is an old lease that had pretty well been produced out.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your recommendation, Mr. Ensminger?

MR. ENSMINGER: I would recommend that you grant a permit on the 2039 No. 10 location, a dredge permit. This will be about 1,590 feet off of the existing access canal in there to this.

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Do you want a separate one



for each one of these?

MR. ENSMINGER: I would think so, Marc.
We will write separate permits on them.

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy.
All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Superior Oil Company
presently is holding State Lease 2039
under production on the Rockefeller
Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, they have made
official request for a marine access
canal to service their No. 10 location
on this lease, and

WHEREAS, this lease has been
developed through marine access,



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby grant
permission to Superior Oil Company
to construct a marine access canal
approximately 1,590 feet, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
the Director is hereby authorized to
sign all documents pertaining to this
matter.

MR. ENSMINGER: The second location is
on 6403. It is their No. 2 well location. This
is a lease that Superior purchased some two and
a half years ago. They do have one good gas well
on it that is not on production at the present
time. I think that they do have some indications
that they will tie into the Louisiana Resources
line, which will be an intra-state line, as I
understand, and certainly give us some excellent
gas prices.

This location is 1,520 feet in length
and is, as I say, in an area that has been devel-
oped for marine access. I would recommend that a



permit be granted to Superior for this location.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: So move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy.

All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Superior Oil Company
has requested permission from the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Com-
mission for a marine access canal to
service State Lease 6403, No. 2 location
on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in
Cameron Parish, and

WHEREAS, this lease has



has adjacent marine access canals,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby grant
permission to Superior Oil Company
to construct a marine access canal
approximately 1,520 feet to the pro-
posed location, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
the Director is hereby authorized to
sign all documents pertaining to this
permit.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Martinez, I believe
you wanted to say something at this time.

MR. GERALD MARTINEZ: Thank you, Mr.
Berry. As the members of the Commission know, we
had a meeting scheduled this afternoon, or a hear-
ing scheduled this afternoon at one o'clock to
hear an appeal that we had granted to the Sierra
Club in connection with a permit issued to Gifford-
Hill and Company under the Natural and Scenic
Rivers Systems Act.

Subsequent to the granting of that



appeal, it was my recommendation at the last meeting that their appeal which was initially requested under the Administrative Procedures Act be denied because they were a party but that they be granted an appeal under our own guidelines and procedures, which provide for an appeal to persons who participated either orally or in writing at the hearing, if we held one. We held a hearing in this case and they did participate.

On that basis, an appeal was granted. However, Mr. Osborne, Michael Osborne, representing the Sierra Club, has filed several motions, requesting rules of procedure which we had submitted, ad hoc rules of procedure. However, he requested additional rules and we referred those questions to the Attorney General's office, expecting an opinion. We have not yet received an opinion, and so the hearing for today was continued, as you know.

I would ask at this time that we reschedule that hearing for the June meeting. I am expecting the opinion from the Attorney General. He has met with Mr. Osborne and I think they are



going to work out an agreement whereby we can proceed with the hearing, but I don't have that in writing at this time. I was expecting it this morning.

MR. WILLE: I move that we move it to the June meeting.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second, gentlemen. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

I will set the June meeting now for June 15.

I would like to make a statement that we are going to have the bag limits and season limits set in Morgan City on May 14 and 15. This is a meeting that has previously been held in Alexandria, Louisiana. We would like everybody present to attend and give us input for setting the seasons.

Is there any other business before the



Commission this morning?

(No response)

MR. JONES: I move we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: May I have a second to
that?

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: We stand adjourned.

. . . Whereupon, at 11:25 o'clock
a.m., Tuesday, April 27, 1976,
the meeting was adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

